



Ø BEAT

COLO. SPRINGS,
COLORADO

F E B R U A R Y

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MEETING NOTICE - Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association will meet this month on February 11th at 7:30 P.M. in the Security Savings & Loan Building, East Platte at Union Boulevard. Any person interested in Amateur radio is invited to attend.

LAST ISSUE OF ZERO BEAT! - The last issue you will receive, that is, unless your dues for 1976 are paid before March 1st. If you are unable to attend the February meeting to pay the dues, mail your check to Dean Jaynes, WAØPJH, 116 North 24th Street, 80904. The rate schedule for dues are: \$6.00 for a full membership, \$4.00 for an associate membership and \$2.00 for each additional family membership.

JOHN JOHNSTON'S FCC SEMINAR was undoubtedly the best attended of all the SAROC seminars, with standing room only in the large meeting room. He led off with a slide presentation documenting the sheer physical burden the CB boom has placed on his division. It really has to be seen to be believed! Next on his agenda was a review of preparations for the 1979 World Administrative Radio Conference and what the conference means to the U.S. Amateur.

Some near future FCC plans for the Amateur service concluded his presentation. The long awaited "Exotic Emissions" docket has been permanently shelved and its place taken by a new approach that would restrict only the bandwidth of an Amateur signal in a given sub-band, not its content (voice, MCW, video, etc.). This proposal is very close to release as a Notice of Proposed Rule Making. The "Instant Upgrade" concept is still moving forward; current thinking is that all future Amateurs would start as Novices, where they'd receive call signs, and from then on would receive on-the-spot upgrading whenever they passed FCC exam. As a fringe benefit, credit would be given for any part of an exam an applicant passed even if he didn't make it all the way, leaving him less to study for on his next try.

Although FCC feeling is that the Amateur community was largely cool to restructuring -- Docket 20282 -- its comprehensive coverage does provide a means for making a number of minor but still important changes that will be coming out in the next few months. Some of these "deregulatory" actions have already

ZERO BEAT

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The PPRAA meets at 7:30 P.M. on the second
Wednesday of each month in the Security
Savings & Loan Building, East Platte at
Union Boulevard.

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taken place. The "Extra Class Callsign" docket was a very popular subject for discussion in the FCC booth during SAROC. Though it has not yet been quite finalized, Johnny said, look for it to give those already holding two-letter calls first crack at changing their calls, then phase in Extras with decreasing numbers of years as Amateurs until finally all Extras will be able to select the open call of their choice. Another proposal about to be aired would delete the requirement to sign "Mobile 9" or "Portable 7" when operating away from the licensed premises. This one almost came to pass as a Report and Order, but last minute misgivings turned it into an NPRM which should be out momentarily.

Overall impression by Amateur and Citizens' top Amateur was that Johnny's running a pro-Amateur shop and they're working hard for us. Expect to see lots of results from that work this year.

HR REPORT

JANUARY MINUTES by Bart Hayhurst, WAØYOH, Secretary: The January meeting of the PPRAA was held on January 14, 1976 at the Security Savings and Loan Building, Union and Platte. Meeting was called to order by the President, Bill Croghan, WBØKSW at 7:40 P.M. with 38 members and guests attending.....Treasurer report by Dean Jaynes, WAØPJH was for \$232.68 as of this date with dues coming in.....Chuck Myers, WAØZCS reported a meeting of the CCARC meeting in Boulder on Saturday and on the stolen equipment list.....YL night at Fargo's was a big success.....New classes for Novices start on February 3rd.....Cliff

Upton, WØLME reported on the Denver Club luncheons on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11:00 A.M.. Anyone in Denver that is interested can find the location via 2 meters.....Ken Keyte, WØTGL made the following motion: I here move that PPRAA, in deference to the growing threat to the good public image of Amateur Radio as we've known it, posed by the threatening spectre of the undesirable elements of a mushrooming CB radio population, immediately institute a working committee entitled SERVICE, comprised of 5 members of the Association for the express purpose of favorably illuminating the identity of Amateur Radio separate and distinct from Citizen Banders through a coordinated and continuing Association program of public service that will warrant and receive a favorable press. The motion was seconded and passed and the five members appointed to the committee were Mike Stansberry, WBØHCK; Dean Jaynes, WAØPJH; Bill Croghan, WBØ KSW; Lyle Rockefeller, WBØMDI and Louie Preller, WØPCZ.....Louie Preller suggested a fox hunt sometime in the near future.....Dean Jaynes reported on RACES.....Swap Fest is now planned for the end of February..... Meeting was adjourned at 10:00 P.M.

BETTER BATTERY? A joint effort by Tokyo Shibara Electric and Toshiba Ray-O-Vac has developed a nickel-zinc 1.55 volt dry cell battery, rechargeable up to 300 times. According to Home Furnishings Daily, the battery is believed to be the first nickel-zinc dry cell battery that is rechargeable. The operating voltage of the battery is higher than nicad batteries (1.2 volts), and materials cost about 50 percent of those in nicad batteries. No word yet on commercial productions for the cell.

HRC "CHEWED RAG" via CCRC CIRCLE

BEST ID NUMBER for marking mobile or other radio gear is NOT your Social Security number as a recent HR Report suggested. Since Social Security numbers are protected by federal privacy regulations, they usually cannot be used to trace a recovered item back to its owner. Police recommended engraving your Soundex number on any gear you wish to protect. Your Soundex number is that long number found on your driver's license, and they are now used almost universally and can be easily traced by computer.

HR REPORT

SUCCESSFUL FOXHUNT in Connecticut after KLEPW had \$1700 in electronics gear stolen from his car while he worked at the WHCN transmitter site. An IC-230 and crystal-controlled 220 rig were among the loot, and quick telephone work alerted local repeater users to expect company. Sure enough, "Breaker channel three: from "Smiling Sam" brought up WRLADO on 220 New Year's Day and, led by smooth talking "Brother Bob" (WALUPC), about 20 area Amateurs joined the all-day talkathon (isn't this new Class E CB band great?) and foxhunt. Armed with a search warrant based on the fox hunters' results, Meriden police raided "Smiling Sam" and recovered KLEPW's goodies. Thanks to WALRYZ for the story.

HR REPORT

APPLICANTS FOR EXTRA CLASS LICENSE no longer need to have held a lower class Amateur license for a year. The rule relaxation became effective January 9th.

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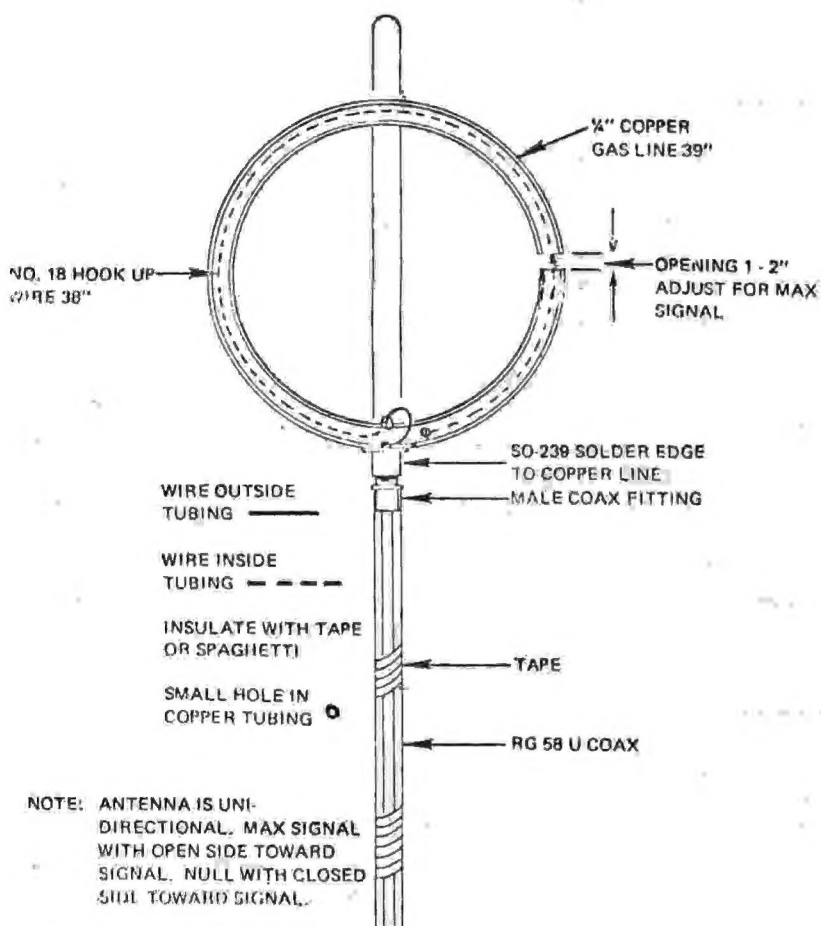
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LET'S GO HUNTIN! A lot of people have discovered the fun of a transmitter hunt, and a lot more would try it if they had an effective unidirectional antenna. Here is an excellent one I found in the REPEATER that can be built easily in an afternoon or evening. The design was provided by Dave Badley, K6AMA. Build one and organize a hunt - they're great!

CCRC CIRCLE

The mast is a piece of dowel rod or a broomstick.



NOTE: ANTENNA IS UNIDIRECTIONAL. MAX SIGNAL WITH OPEN SIDE TOWARD SIGNAL. NULL WITH CLOSED SIDE TOWARD SIGNAL.

CHICAGO FM OPERATORS now have "instant" police access as a Touch-Tone activated "911" system went into operation recently on most major area repeaters. Punching up 911 on the input of any of the participating repeaters ties the system to a dedicated telephone at the Cook County Sheriff's Police Communications Center. The Communications Center operator will then relay emergency traffic to the appropriate area agency for action. The 911 System, which is similar to the one in operation in Dallas for some time, should be a big improvement over the usual "Will someone on the machine give me a relay to the Centerville Police" approach to emergency traffic handling.

HR REPORT

THE DENVER FCC EXAMINER is presently moving to The Executive Tower, 1405 Curtis, Suite 2925, Denver, Colorado 80202. Phone number is 837-4053.

SIX METER OPENING ADVISOR - Those of you who might have a 30-50 MHz FM receiver gathering dust on the shelf can put it to good use by crystalizing it on 47.44 MHz. This is the frequency used by Halliburton Oilfield Services, and is in use 24 hours a day. Their operation ranges world wide and would make a good indicator of possible six meter band openings. Most of their many base stations are of the 330 watt output variety, and their mobiles are in the 100 watt output class. Local base stations are in Brighton and near Sterling.

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FOR SALE: Heath HW-16 transceiver with HG-10B VFO. Mint condition. Phone Dave, WBØPEA at 481-3409.

MANY NEW GOODIES were to be found in the exhibit hall at the 1976 SAROC. Deltron had their new 20-meter mini beam set up and were talking about a 40-meter version and an 80-meter rotatable dipole. For the unfortunate living in a "No Antenna" area, Denny now has his 25-foot "flagpole" complete with halyard and brass ball -- and a 10-160 remote tuning box at the base! Swan introduced their SS747, an all solid-state 3.5-30 MHz (continuous) 125 W transceiver that'll be out in June for about \$850. HAL showed their new 8080 based micro-computer with cassette and keyboard inputs and video display -- it played a good game of blackjack! Basic MCEM-8080 is \$375, assembled. Heath's just announced HW-8 QRP transceiver covers 80-15 and has a hot receiver with selectable audio filters for \$129.95. Ten-Tec's latest is a 160-meter converter for the Triton IV -- it'll go for under \$100. Drake has a new 30 MHz cutoff low pass filter, the TV3300, for \$19.75.

VHF enthusiasts had even more to look at. KLM's new antenna rotors for both azimuth and elevation attracted much OSCAR and moon-bouncer attention, while their 2-meter and 450 FM rigs with scanners looked good too. Every FMer is sure to want one of Henry's HR-2 pocket FM 2-meter receivers -- they're 12 channel (52 and 94 supplied), sell for \$79.95 with Ni-Cads and charger. Their VHF/One synthesized transceiver looks as good as the ads, will be available February 1. Wilson had many buyers for their hand-helds and mobiles -- they have a mike-mounted touchtone pad that's really cute. TPL gave their 200 watt Model 2002 2-meter amp its first outing, and Regency had a Whammo 10 three-band scanner set up with its new synthesizer.

HR REPORT

RELIABLE RAILROAD TUNNEL communications are now assured by using "slotted" coaxial cable termed "Radiax" produced by Andrews Corporation. The Cascade Tunnel of the Burlington Northern, longest in the western hemisphere, uses this type cable; it works in skyscrapers, subways, etc.

SPIRIT OF .76 and .88

OUTSTANDING PUBLICITY for OSCAR and AMSAT is coming up in February Popular Mechanics. Author K3RXK writes that his 3000 word article on the Amateur Radio space program also has lots of good illustrations. February Popular Mechanics should be on the newsstands by the time you read this.

HR REPORT

HEATH SB 104 TRANSCEIVER owners can make a worthwhile improvement in receiver sensitivity of earlier units on all bands with a free mod kit available from Heath. Units with serials (found on the blue and white VFO label) between 00450 and 04530 should request part number 830-20 from Heath Company, Parts Department, Benton Harbor, Michigan 49022. Higher serial SB104s and all HW-104s already have the mod.

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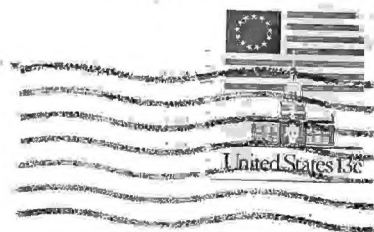
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